

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-17 are currently pending.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The claims are amended to overcome the rejection.

III. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

None of the cited references discloses or suggests a mesh-type network and/or a loop type network, or an optical branching coupler that divides at least one input wavelength multiplexed optical signal from the mesh-type and/or the loop type network into a wavelength multiplexed optical signal as recited, for example, in the amended independent claims 1 and 3.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are overcome.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

March 17, 2009

By:

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